

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
PRESS AVAILABILITY FOLLOWING MEETING WITH RUSSIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
GENERAL PAVEL GRACHEV, WITH PRESS REPORT
MOSCOW, RUSSIA
MARCH 17, 1994

MINISTER GRACHEV: ...Russia is one of the first countries which you have visited after being appointed to the position, and we welcome that fact, we approve of that fact and also we have many issues of mutual concern and of mutual interest which we'd like to discuss with you. And I would ask you how you feel being the Secretary of Defense and for the first time you came in this position to Russia?

SECRETARY PERRY: First of all, Mr. Grachev, let me thank you for your good wishes on my appointment as the Secretary of Defense. This very early visit to Russia reflects the importance to which our country places our relationship with Russia. Even more importantly, it reflects the importance that he plays in our Department of Defense, where strong, constructive relationships with the Ministry of Defense and with you in particular. The developing partnership between the United States and Russia depends on the first order on a harmonious relationship between our two departments. It is not an exaggeration to say that many important national security issues in the entire world will be influenced by the relationship between our two departments.

I have two related purposes in my visit here today. First, there are some specific issues that I would like to discuss with you, with the Ministry of Defense, and I'm sure you have specific issues you want to discuss with us. Where we, in a friendly way, work out the details of the relationship on important problems. While equally importantly, we want to develop more deeply the personal relationship which I have begun with you and with the other members of the Ministry of Defense. All of the important, substantive problems with which we have to work would go much better if we have a close, personal relationship and understanding between the members of the department on this side of the table and the members of the Ministry of Defense on that side of the table, in particular, between Secretary and Minister.

We had our first meeting one year ago this month in Brussels. I hope to build on the relationship we developed at that meeting and at subsequent meetings. Also, for the last ten years, when Doctor Kokoshin and I were both academics, we had developed a long working relationship and hope to continue building on that. It was also important that our military continue to develop good relations with your military, in particular, our joint chiefs of staff build a relationship with your general staff. For that reason, I've invited Admiral Owens to come with me in this business. Admiral Owens is newly appointed as the Vice

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He'll play a very important role in the ongoing relationship with the Russian general staff.

MINISTER GRACHEV: I would like to congratulate the Admiral on this appointment.

SECRETARY PERRY: He is the newly appointed deputy to General Shalikashvili. Prior to that appointment, he was the commander of our naval forces in the Pacific. He is both a warrior and a scholar.

MINISTER GRACHEV: I recently visited the Pacific area, and I wouldn't mind going there once again. I fully agree with you, Mr. Secretary of Defense, on the issues which we are going to discuss. These issues are important and I think one of the important issues is our personal relationship which should promote and probably besides the personal relationship we should discuss the plan of our joint actions for this year and for the coming year. I thoroughly studied the list of questions for discussion which I was given on the eve of this meeting with you and we also have a number of issues which we would like to touch upon during the meeting.

Q. Minister (Grachev), there are reports that Russia intends to join the Partnership for Peace this month. I would like to know if it's true and if not, when you do intend to join?

MINISTER GRACHEV: I told this to my experts, to prepare our stand, our position concerning joining the Partnership for Peace and when everything is worked out, since we. .(inaudible) yes, at the end of this month we will be ready.. .

Q. Mr. Secretary, we understand that (inaudible) is about to approve \$100 million in joint contacts between Russian and American companies. Can we have your comment on this?

SECRETARY PERRY: We are negotiating this afternoon and tomorrow agreements with the Russians which will lead to cooperative programs that will amount initially to \$60 million. Over a period of time it could easily get to \$100 million. That is correct.

Q. What period of time?

SECRETARY PERRY: This year.

Q. Secretary Perry, did you discuss at all U.S./Russian cooperation in Bosnia?

SECRETARY PERRY: Yes, we did. We discussed three major items, deepening and strengthening the bilateral working relationship with Grachev. Had a very good, very positive discussion with General Grachev in that area. Secondly, we discussed the Partnership for Peace which General Grachev has already discussed. Third, we discussed ways of increasing our cooperation in Bosnia to accelerate the process towards a peace agreement there.

Q. Can you give us (inaudible) on the last point what you might have talked about?

SECRETARY PERRY: We agreed to work together as equal partners with the Bosnians, the Muslims, and Croats to bring them towards a peace agreement since this is in the interest both of Russian and the United States as well as the countries in the region.

Inaudible final question and Russian answer.

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Russia Speeds Plan For Link to NATO

March Target Set for 'Partnership'

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, March 17—Russia plans to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program by the end of this month, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told U.S. Defense Secretary William J. Perry today.

Moscow's decision to join the program, which officials say is intended to promote cooperation between the Western alliance and former members of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, signals a continuing effort by the government of President Boris Yeltsin to build cooperative ties with the United States, despite increasing nationalism at home, U.S. and Russian officials say.

The NATO partnership program has provoked considerable controversy here, and several legislators at a parliamentary hearing here today spoke out against what they see as a U.S. effort to extend its dominance into areas of traditional Russian influence.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which includes the United States, Canada and 14 West European countries, developed the Partnership for Peace program as a compromise alternative to bringing East European nations directly into NATO. Former Soviet satellites such as Poland and the Czech Republic are eager to be shielded by the NATO umbrella, but U.S. officials feared that their early membership would alienate Russia and provoke nationalists here while complicating NATO decision-making.

As a result, Partnership for Peace was developed as a flexible and somewhat amorphous program of cooperation agreements that each country will sign separately with NATO outlining such links as joint military maneuvers and observers at

NATO headquarters in Brussels. Former East European nations and former Soviet republics as widely separated as Kazakhstan and the Baltic states already have applied to join or expressed interest.

Russia's Grachev, during a meeting shortly after Perry arrived here this morning, repeated Russia's intention to join the program and for the first time set a timetable, according to senior defense officials. "We will be ready by the end of this month to join this concept," Grachev told reporters after the meeting.

In remarks that alarmed some East European governments, Grachev added that Russia will soon announce its "basic conditions" for joining the Partnership for Peace plan. The foreign ministers of Ukraine and the Czech Republic spoke out against granting any "special status" to Russia.

But U.S. officials traveling with Perry said Grachev had not indicated that Russia is seeking any special concessions. Each country's agreement and plans for military cooperation will be somewhat different, the U.S. officials said, and Grachev was simply referring to the complex task of planning cooperation with an army as large as Russia's.

Perry arrived in Moscow on the first leg of a four-nation tour of the former Soviet Union, his first as defense secretary. The visit is intended to promote cooperation in the conversion of military industries to civilian uses and the dismantling of nuclear and chemical arsenals, officials said.

The defense secretary is expected to sign an agreement Friday allocating \$20 million for defense conversion projects. The money would go to American companies that form

partnerships with Russian arms makers to enter the civilian market.

The agreement is aimed particularly at four firms that were most involved in the production of weapons of mass destruction, officials said, and dozens more that were tangentially involved. In part, U.S. officials hope to stimulate the production of prefabricated housing that could be used to solve another pressing problem for the Russian military: where to house retired officers as the military reduces its size.

After signing the agreement, Perry will fly on to Kazakhstan, where he will visit the space-launching complex at Baikonur, for talks on denuclearization, space cooperation and conversion. He will then visit Ukraine and Belarus for similar negotiations.

Former ambassador to Washington Vladimir Lukin, now chairman of the foreign relations committee in the State Duma, or lower house of parliament, attacked the Partnership for Peace program in hearings today.

Mocking the description of the program as a "compromise," Lukin said, "It reminds me of the compromise of a rapist who offers a girl an

alternative of raping her against her will or just performing a sex act with her without violence . . . and the girl pays him for being raped."

But Russian defense official Pavel Zolotarev said the Defense Ministry "doesn't think of itself as that girl." Zolotarev argued that Russia will be better off joining the program and influencing future security arrangements in Europe rather than choosing a "pseudo-patriotic posture" of isolation.

"Whether we want it or not, the program will go ahead with or without us," agreed the Foreign Ministry's Yuri Ushakov. And only by joining, said a Russian Security Council official, can Russia help shape the program "according to Russia's national interests."

Perry and Grachev also spent considerable time discussing Bosnia, with Perry praising recent Russian peacekeeping initiatives, according to U.S. officials.

Russian naval officials, meanwhile, said U.S. and Russian ships will take part in joint maneuvers off the coast of Norway starting Monday. The exercise will also involve British, German, Dutch and Norwegian ships, they said.